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Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)
later: Mr. Hoppe (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Germany)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Agenda item 49: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/63/L.27 and L.62)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

1. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.62, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.27. The draft proposal had no programme budget implications.

2. **Mr. Matwang'a** (Kenya), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that the phrase "taking into account their interlinkages as well as addressing the cross-cutting issues" should be inserted between commas after the word "Africa" in the fifth line of the twenty-first preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.62. That phrase had been inadvertently omitted from the final edited version of the draft resolution. He hoped that the draft resolution would provide a basis for the future consideration of sustainable development issues and for the implementation of related decisions.

3. **Ms. Pessôa** (Brazil) expressed her delegation's appreciation to all those who had engaged constructively in drafting and negotiating the draft resolution, particularly the facilitator and the coordinator of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution contained an important proposal — made initially by the President of Brazil during the general debate of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in September 2007 — to convene a world summit on sustainable development in 2012, possibly in Rio de Janeiro.

4. The proposal to convene such a high-level event had been thoroughly discussed at the United Nations and elsewhere over the past three months, leading to the inclusion of the detailed language in the current draft resolution. However, during the informal consultations, some Member States had indicated that they required more time to consider the proposal. Accordingly, the draft resolution therefore requested the Secretary-General to obtain the views of Member States concerning the possibility of convening a high-level event on sustainable development with a view to taking further action at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

5. Brazil therefore wished to take the opportunity to reiterate its proposal to host a high-level event on sustainable development (Rio+20 summit), which would be an important opportunity not only to review the implementation of Agenda 21, but also to address the policy and implementation gaps of Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.62, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

7. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.27 was withdrawn.*

8. **Mr. Adler** (Canada), speaking in explanation of position, said that Canada had worked constructively with other delegations to reach a compromise which had allowed it to support the draft resolution. During the informal consultations, his delegation had expressed concerns about the inclusion of language pertaining to a possible high-level event on sustainable development because it believed that Member States needed more time to give that important matter the careful consideration that it deserved.

9. Canada was firmly committed to the successful completion of the previously agreed multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which provided for a review of implementation during the 2016-2017 cycle. A possible high-level event on sustainable development must therefore not be allowed to undermine the Commission's useful programme of work.

10. The draft resolution correctly recognized that further consultations would be necessary, given the divergent views expressed by Member States concerning the possible convening of a high-level event, which would require a strong level of shared commitment in order to be successful. Furthermore, all decisions related to the holding of such an event needed to be firmly rooted in an intergovernmental consensus, which was the basis for the Committee's work. In that regard, his delegation looked forward to

engaging actively and constructively with others during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

11. **Mr. McMahan** (United States of America) said that his delegation had agreed to join the consensus on the draft resolution because it addressed many important issues pertaining to sustainable development. However, during the informal consultations, the United States had expressed concerns about the reference in the draft resolution to a possible high-level event on sustainable development, since Member States needed more time to consider such an important matter.

12. It was clear from the consultations that there was still no consensus on the need to convene another high-level event on sustainable development, which could divert valuable attention from the international community's ongoing efforts to fulfil its sustainable development commitments and to implement Agenda 21. Such an event would certainly disrupt the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development related to Agenda 21, which would be extremely disappointing indeed. It was also questionable whether holding such an event would be a wise use of limited financial and human resources in the current climate. However, his delegation looked forward to engaging actively in further discussions on that topic during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly and, above all, advocated continued progress towards the fulfilment of existing commitments and the expenditure of resources on actions that directly produced results.

13. **Ms. Thorpe** (Australia) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by Canada because it shared the concerns expressed over the convening of another high-level event on sustainable development and the proliferation of other such events, which would be difficult to accommodate in an already busy calendar and programme of work. However, her delegation looked forward to engaging further in outcome-oriented meetings during the remainder of the sixty-third session.

(f) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.17 and L.61)

Draft resolutions on the Convention on Biological Diversity

14. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.61, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.17. The draft proposal had no programme budget implications.

15. **Mr. Silvestre** (Portugal), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, recommended the adoption of the draft resolution after drawing attention to a few minor drafting changes.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.61, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

17. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.17 was withdrawn.*

(g) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.18 and L.54)

Draft resolutions on the Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its tenth special session

18. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.54, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.18.

19. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to paragraphs 12 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.54 and to General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, said that provisions had been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for implementing the terms of the resolution. Therefore, should the Committee adopt the draft resolution, there would be no requirement for additional appropriation, as the necessary expenses would be accommodated within existing resources.

20. **Mr. Rohde** (Germany), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that two deletions had been made to draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.54: the phrase "adopted by the Governing Council at its seventeenth special session" in paragraph 7 and the phrase "the fourth in the series of assessment reports" in paragraph 10.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.54, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.18 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 50: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.26 and A/C.2/63/L.64)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

23. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.64, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.26. The draft proposal had no programme budget implications.

24. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson, recommended the draft resolution for adoption with a few minor drafting changes.

25. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.64, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.26 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 51: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.29, L.34 and L.66)

Draft resolutions on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

27. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.66, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.29. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. **Ms. Eizema** (Netherlands), speaking in her capacity as facilitator, thanked delegations for the constructive spirit that had allowed the Committee to reach consensus on the draft resolution. She said that the phrase ", inter alia," should be inserted after the word "including" in the fourth line of paragraph 15 and drew attention to a number of minor drafting changes.

29. *Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.66, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.29 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolution entitled "Towards a new international economic order"

32. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.34, which had no programme budget implications.

33. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the words "and solidarity" should be inserted after the word "cooperation" in the third line of paragraph 1 and the title of the draft resolution should be capitalized to read "Towards a New International Economic Order". She also drew attention to a number of other minor drafting changes.

34. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

35. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda) asked which delegation had requested the recorded vote.

36. **The Chairperson** replied that it had been the United States of America.

37. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), making a general statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed disappointment that it would not be possible to adopt the draft resolution by consensus and that partners had not shown more willingness to engage constructively when the sponsors had sought to reach a common understanding and consensus agreement on the draft resolution in informal consultations. She urged all delegations to vote in favour of its adoption.

38. **Mr. McMahan** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, expressed disappointment that draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.34 was before the Committee for action, obliging his delegation to call for a vote and to vote against the adoption of the draft resolution. With the world facing a difficult financial and economic situation, a vigorous new multilateralism was emerging and constructive efforts were under way in various international forums, including the Group of Twenty finance ministers and central bank governors, the annual meetings of the international financial

institutions and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, to put the economy on a more stable footing. His country was actively involved in all those processes and also supported an appropriate, constructive role for the United Nations in addressing the current economic situation.

39. Noting the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha, where representatives had resolved to strengthen the coordination of the United Nations system and all other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions to support economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development worldwide, as well as to hold a high-level conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development, he expressed regret that, rather than supporting such innovative and constructive multilateral efforts, the draft resolution would take the Organization back to a discredited approach from almost 35 years earlier. The sentiments voiced by the United States in 1974, when it had voted against the draft resolution regarding the establishment of a new international economic order, were no less valid today. While his country supported the United Nations development agenda, the draft resolution before the Committee would divert scarce Secretariat resources towards an issue and structure that could serve no useful purpose.

40. **Mr. Vasiliev** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution and regretted the fact that delegations had been unable to reach a compromise during the consultations. In his view, the main objective of the draft resolution was to hold a discussion to assess the international economic situation and its impact on the development process. Such a discussion would be useful and was essential.

41. Many of the principles contained in the 1974 Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Order remained relevant today. The current crisis underlined the pressing need to adopt decisive measures to improve the international financial system, which should be more open, fair, effective and legitimate. However, documents from the first half of the 1970s should also be re-examined to take into account modern-day realities and the progress made in global development cooperation. The same was true in the case of theories about the need for a "new order" in international economic relations.

42. **Mr. González Segura** (Mexico) said that the draft resolution commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and its Programme of Action formed an integral part of the Organization's history, reminding it of the importance of advancing to a more inclusive and equitable economic order for all countries and individuals, based on the general principles of equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, with which Mexico wholeheartedly agreed. That was more relevant than ever in the light of the current international economic and financial crisis and the potentially serious consequences — for all countries, particularly the most vulnerable developing countries — of the price instability affecting energy, food and other basic products. Noting that the draft resolution also contributed to the work of the General Assembly without having any programme budget implications, he said that his delegation would vote in favour of its adoption and urged all other Committee members to do the same.

43. **Ms. McGregor** (Canada) said that the United Nations needed to redouble its efforts to address the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on development. While the work of the Committee should be forward-looking and supportive of such efforts, the draft resolution under consideration was not constructive and failed to support multilateral efforts to address the causes and impact of the crisis; its inclusion in the agenda was therefore disappointing.

44. Canada welcomed the outcomes of the Doha Review Conference, including the adoption of the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, which called for the United Nations to hold a conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development. With the General Assembly set to begin implementing that mandate early in 2009, the draft resolution before the Committee confused the issue and sent conflicting messages to the Secretariat and the international community about the Committee's level of commitment to, and support of, United Nations efforts to address the crisis.

45. Her delegation fully supported the United Nations development agenda, including the role that the

Organization should play in addressing the impact of the crisis on development. To fulfil that role, the United Nations needed the full support of Member States working together in a focused and effective manner. Since the draft resolution would hinder such cooperation, Canada would abstain in the vote.

46. **Ms. Thorpe** (Australia) said that her delegation fully supported the explanation given by the representative of Canada and would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution.

47. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.34.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.34 was adopted by 115 votes to 1, with 49 abstentions.*

49. **Mr. Crouzat** (France), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; and, in addition, Iceland and Ukraine, said that in the current situation, characterized by a major economic and financial crisis, references to General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) were irrelevant. Having been adopted in 1974, those resolutions were now outdated and did not provide a helpful framework for addressing the many challenges of today's globalized world. The European Union could not support attempts to turn the clock back through damaging and divisive discussions that risked marginalizing the contribution of the United Nations to global efforts to solve global problems. The draft resolution made no substantive contribution to current discussions on appropriate responses to the crisis.

50. Following the recent Doha Review Conference, the European Union reiterated its commitment to eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and promoting sustainable development with a view to establishing an inclusive and equitable economic system.

51. **Mr. Aguirre** (Chile) said that, although his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution in order to maintain the consensus within the Group of 77 and China, of which it was a member, it was not completely satisfied with the final text, having

proposed various amendments which had not been accepted. It trusted that the agreements regarding the economic and financial crisis that had been unanimously adopted at the Doha Review Conference would be taken into account within the framework of the Assembly's global response to that crisis.

52. **Mr. Guillén** (Peru) said that, while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution because it had been submitted on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, of which it was a member, it had some reservations about the relevance of General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI). The world had changed since 1974 and the international economic order was now characterized by a number of factors, including investment flows, technological developments and migration, that had enabled many countries to access the benefits of development. Solutions must be found in the financial system — where the current crisis had originated — rather than by going down restrictive routes that would have a negative impact on the factors driving development.

53. **Mr. Rengifo** (Colombia) said that, while progress towards an international economic order promoting values such as equity and cooperation should be seen as a constant objective, efforts to that end should take into account changing conditions in the global environment. His delegation therefore took it that the references in the draft resolution to the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and its Programme of Action related only to the general principles contained in those documents. The United Nations macroeconomic and development agenda should be constantly evolving, in order to respond to current challenges and their future impact.

54. All steps taken towards an economic order that was fairer and more supportive of development must be based on consensus and cooperation, as well as guided by existing international commitments. His delegation therefore welcomed the importance given within the United Nations framework to the Millennium development agenda and the Monterrey financing for development process reaffirmed at the Doha Review Conference.

55. **Ms. Navarro** (Cuba), making a general statement, said that the fundamental principles contained in the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, and many of the commitments set down in its Programme of Action, were more valid than ever. Thirty-five years after their adoption, the world had become much more chaotic, unjust and unequal. The current economic and financial crisis was a logical consequence of the inevitable contradictions of the neoliberal capitalist model, which had for years attempted to impose the idea of the market as sole authority, an idea defended by certain countries and their discredited financial institutions, which were now forced to admit their urgent need of radical reform.

56. The aspirations reflected in General Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) were not out-of-date, nor had they fallen into oblivion. The countries of the South continued to work hard to achieve the goals that had been endorsed by the vast majority of Member States in 1974 but had still not been achieved. The concept of a new international economic order was not discredited, as the representative of the United States had said. Those who made such claims did not want to acknowledge publicly that the real failures were the models they had tried to impose and the useless advice of institutions that were now, more than ever, morally bankrupt.

57. There was an undeniable need for a new international economic order. Her delegation hoped that the United Nations would fulfil the key role it was called upon to play in steering the necessary change.

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.31 and A/C.2/63/L.67)

Draft resolutions on international migration and development

58. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.31.

59. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that she wished to read out an oral statement prepared by the Programme Planning and Budget Division regarding draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67. The statement was also being circulated to the members of the Committee at the meeting.

60. With regard to paragraphs 16 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67, it was recalled that the oral statement issued by the Secretary-General, in response to requests contained in draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.31,

indicated that, based on the Secretariat's experience of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in 2006, preparations for holding a high-level dialogue would involve coordinating inputs from the United Nations system and drafting the pre- and post-meeting reports and background documents required; liaising with the Office of the President of the General Assembly and providing all substantive support that it required; liaising with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and assisting in the preparation of background documentation on the modalities of the High-level Dialogue; and organizing preparatory events and activities, including side events, during the High-level Dialogue. Implementation of those activities would still be necessary if the High-level Dialogue were to be held in 2013, taking into account any decisions on its focus and modalities that the General Assembly might take at its sixty-seventh session. Substantive support would also be provided to a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development to be convened in 2011.

61. While implementation of the provisions of paragraphs 16 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67 could give rise to conference servicing implications, the extent of those implications could not be determined until a decision had been taken on the modalities of the High-level Dialogue. The informal thematic debate was, however, expected to be part of the Assembly's conference servicing entitlement and would be listed as a separate item in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fifth session. Any additional conference-servicing requirements for the High-level Dialogue and the informal thematic debate would be reviewed, evaluated and their financial implications established once the relevant General Assembly decisions had been taken. There were therefore insufficient details to determine the full programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution at the current time; the Secretariat would provide further information, as necessary, once matters had been clarified.

62. With regard to the use of the words "within existing resources" in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the draft resolution, attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

63. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.67 was adopted.*

64. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.31 was withdrawn.*

65. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution, following long and often difficult negotiations that had required Committee members to show great flexibility and cooperation. The Group of 77 and China, however, would have preferred the High-level Dialogue on international migration and development to be held in 2011, given the importance of the issue to all Member States and still hoped that such high-level dialogues would be held periodically within the United Nations.

66. **Mr. Crouzat** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, stressed the importance of the Global Forum on Migration and Development as an opportunity for countries to pursue the dialogue on and to develop holistic approaches to migration and development. The European Union had supported the Global Forum from its inception, and would continue to do so, provided that it remained informal, voluntary, non-binding and driven by interested States and participants.

67. Noting that several States had expressed the wish that migration and development be discussed within the United Nations itself, he said that the European Union considered the Global Forum, and not the Organization, to be the appropriate international framework for addressing that issue. Furthermore, a second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development should not be held in the same year as the Global Forum, so as to avoid competition between the two. As no offer had yet been made to host the Global Forum in 2013, the European Union had agreed to hold a second High-level Dialogue that year. Discussions on the issue of migration and development could also be held in the lead-up to the 20-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in 2014.

68. Despite having serious reservations, the European Union had joined the consensus on the provision in the draft resolution for the convening, at the sixty-fifth

session of the General Assembly, of a one-day informal thematic debate on international migration and development. However, the debate should not be structured in the same way as a High-level Dialogue; nor should it overshadow the Global Forum scheduled for 2011. The debate should be an informal meeting of experts that did not result in any binding conclusions, but rather encouraged fruitful, open exchanges on the issue of migration and development.

69. **Mr. González Segura** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, even though it did not provide a fully satisfactory definition of the most appropriate mechanism for following up the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in 2006. As the Rio Group had indicated, such a mechanism must be periodic and substantive and must take an integrated, people-centred approach to migration.

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.32 and L.60)

Draft resolutions on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

70. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.60, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.32.

71. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution and referring to paragraph 19 thereof, recalled that, by resolution 62/237 of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly had approved regular budget resources totalling US$ 36,819,000 under section 16, entitled "International drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice", of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. Resource requirements for the biennium 2010-2011 would be considered in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

72. Attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

73. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.60 was adopted.*

74. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.32 was withdrawn.*

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*) (A/63/256)

75. **The Chairperson** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (A/63/256).

76. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 52: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.39, L.57 and L.65)

Draft resolution on the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade (2001-2010) (A/C.2/63/L.57)

Draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/63/L.39)

77. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, which was being submitted by Mr. Al-Aud (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.39.

78. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the financial implications of the draft resolution and referring to paragraphs 4 and 5 thereof, recalled that, under the established headquarters principle, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the meetings of its preparatory committee should be held in New York. It was therefore understood, in accordance with section I, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 40/243, that any additional costs resulting from a change in

venue of those meetings from New York were to be borne by the host country.

79. Referring to paragraph 8, she said that while the decision to convene the Conference and the intergovernmental preparatory committee would certainly give rise to additional resource requirements with regard to conference servicing, support services and public information services, the Secretariat would not be able to determine the full extent of those requirements until specific information on the dates and venue of the Conference and on the duration and dates of the preparatory committee's meetings became available.

80. Given that the regional-level preparatory meetings provided for in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would be held in the context of the regular annual sessions of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, respectively, the servicing of those meetings would be provided from within the existing capacity of the two regional commissions.

81. A statement of programme budget implications (A/C.2/63/L.65) had initially been submitted with resource requirements for the immediate commencement, in 2009, of the preparatory work for the Conference. However, in light of further consultations and the fact that the specific modalities of the Conference would be agreed only during the remainder of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, the Secretariat was now prepared to carry out any preparatory activities that might be needed in 2009 from within existing resources. Efforts would also be made to mobilize funds from United Nations system partners active in the area in question.

82. Requirements for the activities by which the provisions of the draft resolution would be implemented in 2010 and 2011 would be considered within the framework of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

83. With regard to paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, attention was drawn to the provisions of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly had reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters and had reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

84. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no financial implications would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

85. **Mr. Al-Aud** (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, proposed minor drafting changes to the English and Arabic texts of the draft resolution.

86. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.57, as orally revised, was adopted.*

87. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.39 was withdrawn.*

88. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, particularly the decision to hold the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011. The United Nations must contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference and thus ensure that the least developed countries were able to achieve their development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, particularly the Least Developed Countries Unit, must be adequately strengthened with both human resources and logistical support to carry out its mandate as described in paragraph 10 of the draft resolution. The Group of 77 and China looked forward to working with other delegations to finalize the organizational aspects of the Conference.

89. **Ms. McGregor** (Canada), speaking on behalf of the CANZ group of countries (Canada, Australia and New Zealand), said that she looked forward to discussing the modalities of the Conference and of its preparatory process, in particular the review of progress and challenges in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action and setting the course for the road ahead.

90. **Mr. Crouzat** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus, particularly the decision to hold the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011; the European Union would spare no effort in ensuring the success of the Conference in order to advance the situation of the least developed countries. The European Union remained committed to the collective target of

contributing 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance (ODA) to those countries, while fully respecting the differentiated commitments as set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

91. He took it that, on the basis of its paragraph 7, the draft resolution did not have programme budget implications for the biennium 2008-2009. His delegation would therefore bring to the attention of its Fifth Committee representatives the issue of the requirements for the preparatory process for the Conference in 2009.

92. **Mr. Osuga** (Japan) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus and looked forward to negotiating the modalities of the Conference in order to ensure a successful outcome.

93. **Mr. Alim** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, expressed support for the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Group of Least Developed Countries looked forward to the discussions on the organizational aspects of the Conference and of the preparatory committee. Such discussions were critically important for the adoption of a comprehensive framework for a partnership between the least developed countries and their development partners over the decade 2011-2020. In that connection, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, particularly the Least Developed Countries Unit, must receive adequate support in order to carry out its mandate.

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.40 and L.59)

Draft resolutions on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

94. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.59, which was being submitted by Mr. Al-Aud (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.40. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

95. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.59 was adopted.*

96. **Ms. Abdygaliyeva** (Kazakhstan) said that the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States had been particularly hard hit by cuts in foreign direct investment and ODA, as a result of the food, financial and fuel crisis. Kazakhstan had hosted the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, and traditionally sponsored a resolution on the topic. Such resolutions furthered the integration of the Almaty Programme of Action into the relevant development programmes. Donor countries should engage more strongly with landlocked developing countries by adopting new assistance measures and modalities, and rectifying trade imbalances. Her delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

97. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.40 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 53: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.11, L.25, L.56 and L.58)

Draft resolutions on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

98. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.58, which was being submitted by Mr. Al-Aud (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft

resolution A/C.2/62/L.25. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

99. **Mr. Naeemi** (Afghanistan), speaking in his capacity as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that the draft resolution would mark a critical step towards achieving one of the most critical Millennium Development Goals, improving the lives of millions. He recommended it for adoption with a minor drafting change.

100. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.58 was adopted with minor drafting changes.*

101. **Mr. Russell** (United States of America) said that his delegation was pleased to join the consensus. The eradication of poverty was a top priority for his Government, which had provided more foreign assistance in the past eight years than at any time over the previous half-century. Good governance, results-based programmes and accountability would be fundamental to achieve that goal. At the outset of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, it was also vital to focus on close cooperation within the United Nations system.

102. *Draft resolution L/C.2/63/L.25 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on the role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

103. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.56, which was being submitted by Mr. Al-Aud (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.11.

104. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.56 was adopted.*

105. **Ms. Kalajian** (United States of America) said that for over 25 years, her country had been very active in organizing microfinance programmes, in particular through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Those efforts had given over 6 million low-income people in developing countries access to credit, savings and other microfinance products and services. Resolution A/C.2/63/L.56 was an excellent example of what could be achieved in a spirit of partnership. The United States would continue to support microfinance programmes, and looked forward to the forthcoming considerations by the plenary Assembly of the outcome of and follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit.

106. **Mr. Crouzat** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that inclusive financial sectors, microfinance and microcredit were very important tools for eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The European Union fully supported the creation in 2006 of the United Nations Advisers Group on Inclusive Financial Sectors. In June 2008, the Group had formulated recommendations aimed at helping Governments, regulators and private-sector and development partners to build inclusive financial sectors. The political declaration issued at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs had emphasized the importance of strengthening domestic financial sectors as a source of capital by expanding access to financial services.

107. The European Union would have preferred a greater focus on inclusive financial sectors, on the basis of the work of the Advisers Group. Inclusive financial sectors should offer appropriate financial services and products to all segments of the population, including persons living in poverty, and should be supported by effective policies and legal and regulatory frameworks. The European Union looked forward to further discussions on those issues.

108. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus. Microfinance had been developed in the South, and had proved highly effective in eradicating poverty and empowering women. The demand for microcredit and similar services around the world remained significant. The United Nations and the international community could do much to make microcredit available to over 1 billion people who did not have access to traditional financial institutions. Such services should not be overtaken by inclusive financial sectors, and should be discussed on their own merits. She looked forward to doing so in the plenary Assembly.

109. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.11 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 54: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.4, L.43, L.48 and L.63)

Draft resolutions on operational activities for development

110. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.48, which was being submitted by

Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.4. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

111. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.48 was adopted.*

112. *Draft resolution A/C.2/62/L.4 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

113. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.63, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.43. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

114. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.63 was adopted.*

115. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.43 was withdrawn.*

116. *Ms. Ogwu (Nigeria), Chairperson, resumed the Chair.*

Agenda item 110: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.68)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly

117. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the Committee's draft programme of work for the sixty-fourth session (A/C.2/63/L.68).

118. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that in the light of the adoption of resolution A/C.2/63/L.67, sub-item 7 (b) of the draft programme of work should be deleted.

119. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly was adopted as orally corrected.*

Agenda item 119: Programme planning (*continued*)

120. **The Chairperson** informed the Committee that she had been advised by the Secretariat that there were no matters requiring the Committee's attention or action under that agenda item. She took it that the Committee decided that no action was required under that agenda item.

121. *It was so decided.*

Completion of the main part of the Committee's work

122. **The Chairperson**, in her closing remarks, thanked all delegations, in particular the members of the Bureau and facilitators of draft resolutions, for their tireless efforts and spirit of cooperation. Despite several obstacles, the Committee had successfully and productively addressed a wide array of issues. The panel discussions had been stimulating and beneficial; the Committee should continue to invite experts and relevant stakeholders to enable an exchange of ideas. The Committee had faced an unprecedented workload, and had also taken on responsibility for negotiating the Doha Review Conference. Out of 39 proposals involving informal negotiations, 37 had been completed by 26 November. Even though the Committee had had to request an extension, the atmosphere had remained constructive.

123. She was grateful to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and his team, in particular the Director of the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination, the Programme Planning and Budget Division, the Second Committee team and the many United Nations staff members who had facilitated the Committee's work.

124. Climate change and the food, fuel and financial crisis threatened the livelihoods of millions of people around the world. The Committee had successfully helped tackle such issues. She hoped that the standard it had set would serve as a model for the forthcoming session.

125. **Mr. Seth** (Director, Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), speaking also on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, thanked the Committee for its efficient work. As in previous years, the Committee had acted as a catalyst to address the pressing issues of the day. The Monterrey Conference and the ongoing Poznań Climate Change Conference both drew on the work of the Committee. That work had bolstered the role of the United Nations and the idea of multilateralism, in addition to giving the Secretariat a mandate to take further action. The Committee had been true to its tradition of consensus and collective will. Lastly, he congratulated the Chairperson on her distinguished stewardship.

126. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and **Mr. Torrington** (Guyana) participated, **the Chairperson** declared that the Committee had completed the main part of its work for the sixty-third session.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.